



News Release

U.S. ARMY FIELD SUPPORT COMMAND

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AFSC employee awarded highest honor

Rock Island, Ill. – A Quad City native and employee of the Army Field Support Command at Rock Island Arsenal, was awarded the highest honor bestowed upon an Army civilian.

Jim Loerhl traveled to Washington D.C. May 9 to receive the Exceptional Civilian Service Award, presented to him by the Secretary of the Army, Francis J. Harvey. Loerhl received the award during a ceremony at the Pentagon recognizing 20 outstanding members of the Army.

Loerhl, a graduate of United Township High School and St. Ambrose University, received the award for the support he provided through acquisition and logistics. Loerhl is the Director of the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP) and the Director of the AFSC Acquisition Center.

The Silvis resident said he was “taken aback” during the ceremony held in the Pentagon’s main auditorium.

“Sitting there amongst the other folks, listening as their contributions and efforts were read, and knowing what I had done was being recognized at the same level, was an honor,” he said.

Loerhl described his award as the culmination of a lot of hard work by many people. Wearing two hats as the Director of LOGCAP and the Acquisition Center entails a wide spectrum of responsibilities.

As the Director of LOGCAP, Loerhl is responsible for the management and execution of the multi-billion dollar program providing logistical support to Soldiers around the world. LOGCAP uses contractors in place of the military force structure, providing maintenance, food, construction services and supplies.

Loerhl’s acquisition role charges him with responsibility for all of AFSC’s contractual actions. This includes all ammunition procurement for the Joint Munitions

Command. It also includes acquisition in support of the Chemical Materials Agency as well as contractual support for other AFSC missions like Army Prepositioned Stocks.

Loehrl said his job and the programs can be overwhelming at times but he credited his team for all the successes. One of the biggest challenges he and his team faced, he said, was change. Loehrl said the way in which the LOGCAP program was executed was changing and evolving. As the director of the program, he believed it was his responsibility to make sure everyone on his team was buying into the changes.

“It was important to get people to take ownership of the change,” he said. “One of the first things I had to do was get everyone focused on the important things. We did that by setting goals and objectives and getting our priorities honed.”

Loehrl set out several objectives. Those included most importantly, support to the Soldiers.

“Taking care of the Soldiers is the most satisfying part of our job,” he said. “I get a true sense of accomplishment because I get to see the net results of our work. Not a day goes by that Soldiers are not touched by LOGCAP. Their dining facilities, the water they drink, what we do is helping to take care of the Soldiers.”

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